

IS-US030582



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Masaya FUJII et al :
Serial No.: 10/728,914 :
Filed: December 8, 2003 :
For: COMBINATION WEIGHING DEVICE :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the attached references to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. Also attached is a completed PTO-1449 form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application. Thus, ***no fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement.*** However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

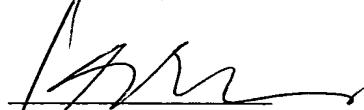
Japanese Patent Application Publication 63-250528 discloses a combination weighing apparatus having a plurality of pool hoppers D and weighing hoppers E (Figure 2). The pool hoppers D and weighing hoppers each have a weight sensor F. Combination calculation can be performed with articles in the pool hoppers D as well as articles in the weighing hoppers E. Each of the pool hoppers has a gate that leads to a weighing hopper and a gate that leads to a chute. If a pool hopper is selected during a combination calculation, its chute gate opens such that the articles are disposed of through the chute.

Japanese Utility Model 2-655 discloses a combination weighing apparatus having a plurality of pool hoppers 3 each having a weighing function. Automatic weighing devices 18 weigh articles that are sent to the pool hoppers 3. Once the weight of articles in a pool hopper 3 reaches a predetermined optimal value, the pool hopper 3 opens and the articles in the pool hoppers 3 are dropped to the corresponding weighing hopper 4.

Japanese Patent Application Publication 07-063599 discloses a combination weighing apparatus which measures the weight of articles that are transmitted from the pool hopper 4 to the weighing hopper 6 and compares the weight with an optimum weight T. The combination weighing apparatus determines the number of weighing hoppers 6 to be selected during the combination calculation such that the probability of finding a combination of hoppers that satisfies the weight requirement is the highest.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: Feb 23 2004

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box +

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/728,914
Filing Date	December 8, 2003
First Named Inventor	Masaya FUJII et al.
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	IS-US030582

A circular stamp with the text "U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" around the perimeter. In the center, it says "01 P 46 JG 114" at the top and "FEB 25 2004" at the bottom.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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****EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.***

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.